

Amendments To The Specification

At Page 7 Line 19 to Page 8 line 6

Referring again to Figs. 3 and 4, the cup dispenser mechanism 40 includes a cylindrically shaped escapement housing 73 affixed to the lower portion of supply tube 45. The escapement housing 73 houses escapement 75. As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the escapement 75 includes disk-shaped member 80 having an aperture 83 therein and a flat face 84. Attached to the disk-shaped member 80 on the top side thereof is top leaf 85, and attached to the disk-shaped member 80 at the bottom side thereof is bottom leaf 90. Because Fig. 7 is a top-view of the disk-shaped member 80, the portion of bottom leaf 90 obscured by the disk-shaped member 80 is shown in dotted lines. The thickness of bottom leaf 90 is chosen such that it will not fit into grooves 35 of cup 10, the thickness of top leaf 85 is chosen such that it will fit into groove 35 of cup 10. The significance of this feature will become more apparent when the operation of the escapement 75 is described in detail below.

B A

At Page 10 Line 4 to Line 15

The operation of escapement 75 in connection with sample shuttle 120 will now be described. As can be seen in Figs. 10 through 13, which are section views of the escapement housing 73 and escapement 75, disk-shaped member 80 moves laterally with respect to the longitudinal axis of the supply tube 45 among various positions as has been described briefly above. The lateral movement is accomplished by the interaction of sample shuttle 120 with escapement 75. Specifically, the sample shuttle 120 moves along the track 123 in direction A shown in Figs. 4 and 9A such that actuation pins 145 engage flat face 84 of disk-shaped member 80, thereby pushing it against the return tension provided by spring 105 and moving it laterally in direction A. Similarly, when the sample shuttle 120 reverses direction and moves along the track 123 in direction B shown in Figs. 4 and 9A, the disk-shaped member moves laterally in direction B by the return force of spring 105 and eventually the actuation pins 145 disengage with flat face 84 of disk-shaped member 80.

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